

Message Text

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TAGS: FR, CS, PINT
SUBJECT: PRESS INTERVIEW WITH COSTA RICAN PRESIDENT

SUMMARY: COSTA RICAN PRESIDENT ODUBER, WHO ARRIVED IN
PARIS JUNE 16 ON AN OFFICIAL VISIT WHICH WILL LAST
UNTIL THE BEGINNING OF THIS WEEK, LUNCHEON ON SATURDAY,
JUNE 18 WITH PRESIDENT GISCARD D'ESTAING. DURING HIS
STAY HE GAVE AN INTERVIEW TO LE MONDE (JUNE 19), IN
WHICH HE ADDRESSED PROBLEMS OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN LATIN
AMERICA, REGIONAL RELATIONS WITH THE US AND BILATERAL
RELATIONS WITH THE US, EUROPE AND OTHER LATIN AMERICAN
COUNTRIES. END SUMMARY

1. EUROPEANS MORE INTERESTED IN BUSINESS THAN IN
PRINCIPLES: WARNING THAT EUROPE MIGHT SOON BE IN DANGER
OF "PASSING FOR UNCLE SAM'S BROTHER" ODUBER POINTED OUT
THAT EUROPEANS, INCLUDING THE SOCIAL-DEMOCRATS, HAVE
TRADITIONALLY BLAMED THE US FOR THE ILLS OF LATIN
AMERICA WHEREAS THE EUROPEANS HAVE A LOT TO ANSWER FOR.
FIRST OF ALL THEY SHOW AN ALMOST TOTAL LACK OF INTEREST
IN LATIN AMERICAN PROBLEMS. THEN, MOST ESPECIALLY,
BECAUSE THEY, INCLUDING CERTAIN SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC
GOVERNMENTS, SEEM TO BE MORE CONCERNED WITH LANDING GOOD
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BUSINESS DEALS THAN WITH HAVING PRINCIPLES FOLLOWED
AND RESPECTED.

2. CLOSER COSTA RICAN TIES WITH EUROPE: IN A SURVEY OF
US-LATIN AMERICAN RELATIONS ODUBER POINTED OUT THAT HIS
COUNTRY'S RECENT RAPPROCHEMENT WITH EUROPEAN LEADERS,
ESPECIALLY SOCIAL-DEMOCRATS (INCLUDING WILSON, BRANDT

AND KREISKY) WAS UNDERTAKEN IN ORDER TO DEFEND COSTA RICA'S CAUSE IN WASHINGTON. ODUBER FELT THAT AFTER THE CHILEAN COUP OF 1973, AND WITH NIXON IN THE WHITE HOUSE, THERE WAS NO ONE IN WASHINGTON INTERESTED IN LISTENING TO HIM.

3. PANAMA CANAL: A JOINT US-PANAMA CONCERN: WHILE EXPRESSING HIS BELIEF THAT THE NEUTRALITY OF THE PANAMA CANAL IS A REGIONAL PROBLEM, ODUBER STRESSED THAT BY MUTUAL AGREEMENT IT WAS THE US AND PANAMA WHICH MUST BE ITS GUARANTORS. HOWEVER, IT REMAINED FOR THE TREATY ITSELF TO BE "SOLD" TO THE 66 US SENATORS NECESSARY FOR ITS RATIFICATION.

4. HUMAN RIGHTS IN LATIN AMERICA: ODUBER BELIEVED IT WAS NATURAL THAT PRESIDENT CARTER'S HUMAN RIGHTS DRIVE IN LATIN AMERICA SHOULD HAVE MET SOME OPPOSITION AS THE US, SINCE 1965, HAS CONTINUALLY GIVEN SUPPORT TO THE MILITARY REGIMES THERE. DESPITE CARTER'S BREAK WITH UNDEMOCRATIC POLICIES, THE LATIN AMERICAN MILITARY CONTINUES TO HAVE SUPPORT IN THE US, ESPECIALLY AMONG MULTI-NATIONALS. THERE IS EVIDENCE OF A COMMON POLICY FORMED TO RESIST "INTERVENTIONIST" PRESSURES AS SEEN AT THE OAS CONFERENCE IN GRENADA.

5. US POLICIES IN LATIN AMERICA: ODUBER EXPRESSED HIS
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BELIEF THAT THE US SHOULD NOT ACT IN ISOLATION BUT SHOULD CONTINUE TO TAKE THE LEAD IN THE STRUGGLE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS IN CONCERT WITH OTHER DEMOCRATIC COUNTRIES IN THE REGION AND SHOULD PREFERABLY GRANT AID ONLY TO DEMOCRATIC COUNTRIES. IN PARTICULAR ODUBER MENTIONED JAMAICA AS A FAVORABLE CASE.
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